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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Half a Ton of Marijuana Seized Over the Weekend

Drugs valued at more than \$873,000

Jacumba, California - More than half a ton of marijuana was seized by Border Patrol agents this weekend near Jacumba. Two separate incidents occurred a little more than 24 hours apart and highlight what has become an unusually busy month for drug seizures in San Diego County.

Saturday morning, agents apprehended two men and a teenage girl smuggling over 868 pounds of marijuana near Jacumba.

Agents patrolling the border near the O'Neal Valley area noticed a Nissan Pathfinder and Chevrolet Venture traveling down a dirt road and away from the border. Both vehicles, registered to rental companies out of San Diego, appeared to be heavily laden. After following for several minutes, Agents stopped both vehicles on the shoulder of I-8. Agents smelled the narcotic when they approached the vehicles and quickly discovered cardboard boxes with 182 wrapped bundles of marijuana in one vehicle and 177 bundles in the other. The narcotics have an estimated street value of over \$694,400.

The two men, both residents of San Diego, and the narcotics were turned over to the DEA. The juvenile female, a resident of San Ysidro, was released to the custody of her mother. Formal charges are pending.

Sunday morning, agents observed someone on the border road attempting to brush-out footprints as he crossed into Mexico. Upon inspection, agents discovered the concealed footprint trail of three individuals traveling towards the border. Agents followed the trail backwards, and discovered three military-style duffle bags containing over 233 pounds of marijuana hidden near Old Highway 80. The estimated street value of the discovery is more than \$178,800.

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